



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/554,216	10/24/2005	Morihiro Murata	SON-3205	8271
23353	7590	07/31/2008	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC			PRANGE, SHARON M	
LION BUILDING			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501			3728	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			MAIL DATE	
			07/31/2008	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/554,216	Applicant(s) MURATA ET AL.
	Examiner SHARON M. PRANGE	Art Unit 3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. .
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/0256/06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

The Amendment filed May 2, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1-6 remain pending in the application. The previous 35 USC 112 rejection of claim 6 is withdrawn in light of the Applicant's amendments to claim 6.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 15, the word "support" should be changed to "supporting." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

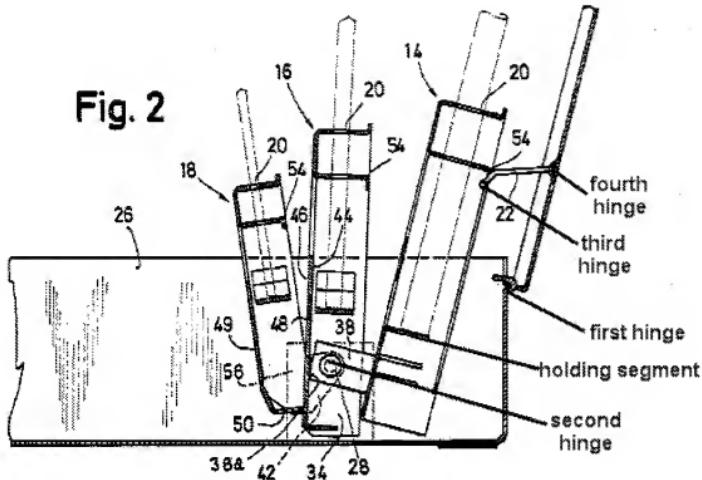
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sautter (US Patent No. 4,006,821).

Regarding claim 1, Sautter discloses a storage case with: a case body (member 10), a case cover (lid member 12), a supporting plate (tray 14) with a holding segment (see Fig. 2) for holding a portion of the object to be stored, the holding segment disposed at a base end of the supporting plate, the object being inserted into and taken out from the holding segment at a free end of the supporting plate or tray; and a four link

mechanism with a first hinge pivotally supporting the case body and the case cover in an openable/closeable manner (column 2, lines 41-44; see Fig. 2), a second hinge via which the base end of the supporting plate is pivotally supported by the case body in a n openable/closeable manner such that the holding segment faces the case body (column 2, lines 58-67; Fig. 2), and a third hinge and a fourth hinge via which opposite ends of an arm segment (connecting means 22) disposed between the supporting plate and the case cover are pivotally supported by the supporting plate and the case cover in an openable/closeable manner such that, upon opening or closing the case cover relative to the case body, the supporting plate and the case cover move simultaneously with each other (column 2, lines 53-57; column 2, lines 67-68, column 3, lines 1-3; Fig. 2), wherein when the case cover is being closed over the case body in a state in which said at least one portion of the object to be stored is held by the holding segment of the supporting plate, the object to be stored is rotated so as to be positioned below the supporting plate (Fig. 3), whereby the object to be stored and the supporting plate become stored in a storing position of the case body, and wherein when the case cover is being opened from the case body, the stored object is rotated so as to be positioned above the supporting plate, whereby the stored object and the supporting plate are drawn out from the case body (Fig. 3).

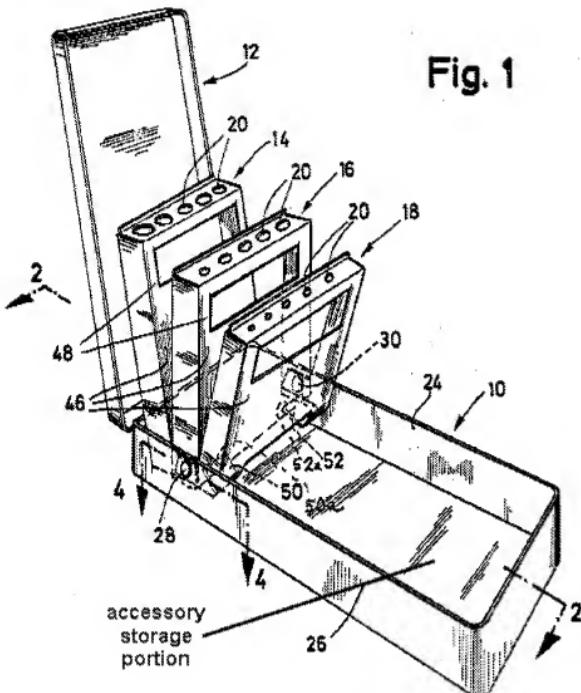
Fig. 2



Regarding claim 2, the supporting plate is provided with a cutout (opening 54) for housing the arm segment when the cover is closed over the case body (column 3, lines 1-3; Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 5, two sides, the right and the left side, of the case body are provided with the case cover, the supporting plate, and the four-link mechanism.

Regarding claim 6, the case body is provided with an accessory storage portion. The bottom of the case body is capable of storing an accessory in the form of a booklet or instruction manual (Fig. 1).



Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

None of the prior art teaches, discloses, or suggests Applicant's claimed invention including a supporting plate with a four hinge mechanism that rotates simultaneously with the cover in combination with the specific holding segments of a circular-arc portion, a low-height columnar portion, a circular pedestal and a circular hole.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments have overcome the 112 (2nd paragraph) rejections from the previous Office Action. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shown are displays analogous to applicant's instant invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHARON M. PRANGE whose telephone number is (571)270-5280. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sharon M Prange/
Examiner, Art Unit 3728

/JILA M MOHANDESI/
July 29, 2008 Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3728

Application/Control Number: 10/554,216
Art Unit: 3728

Page 8